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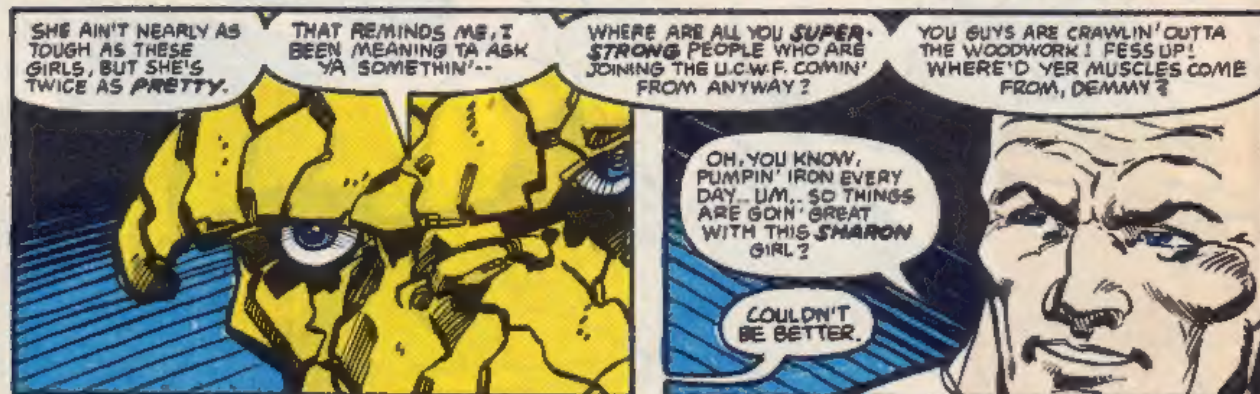
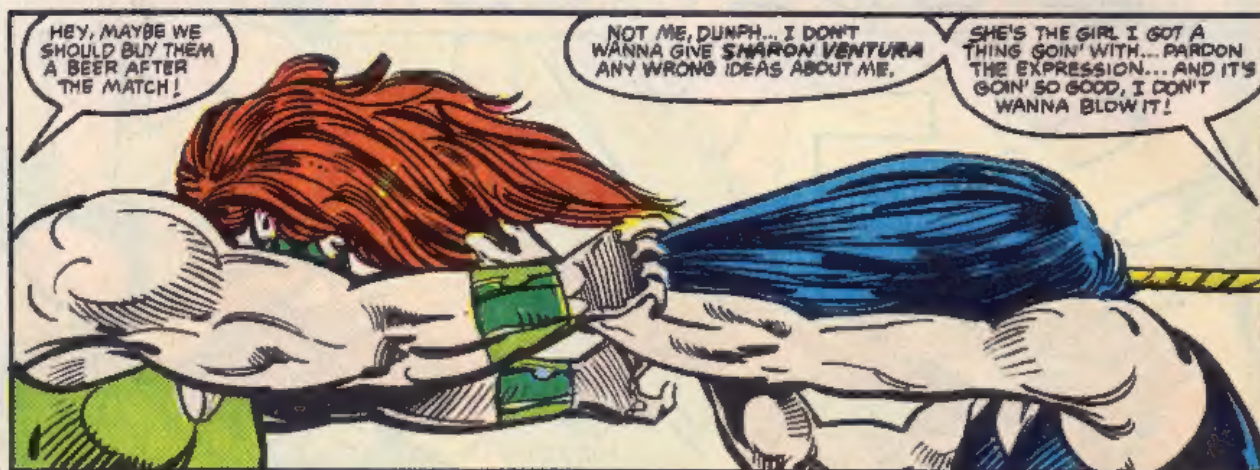
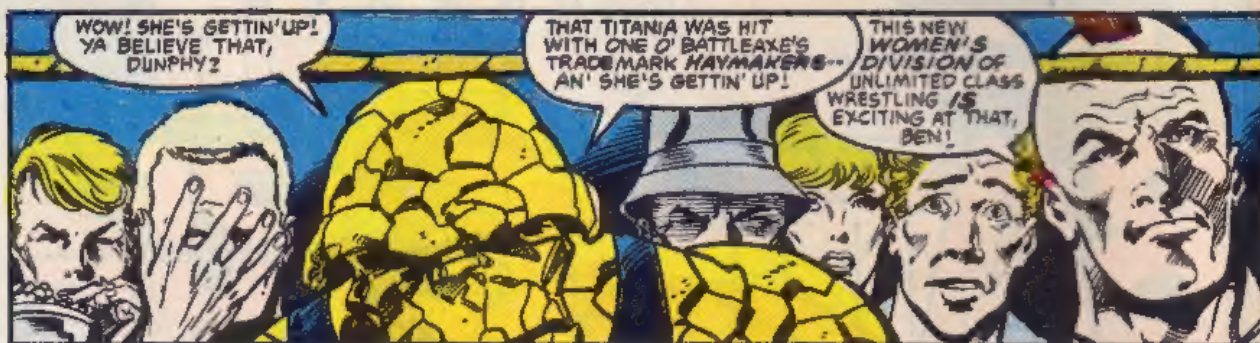
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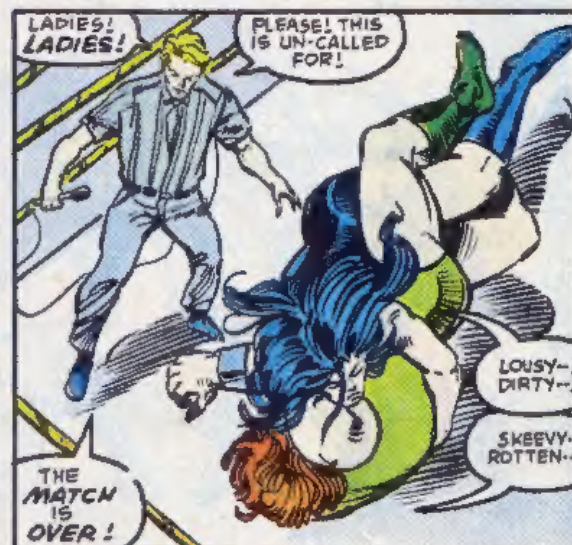
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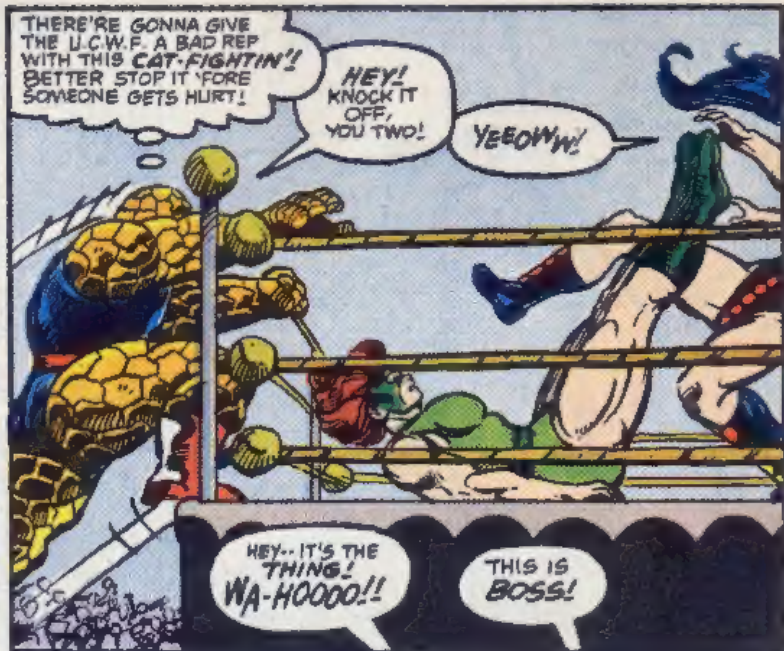














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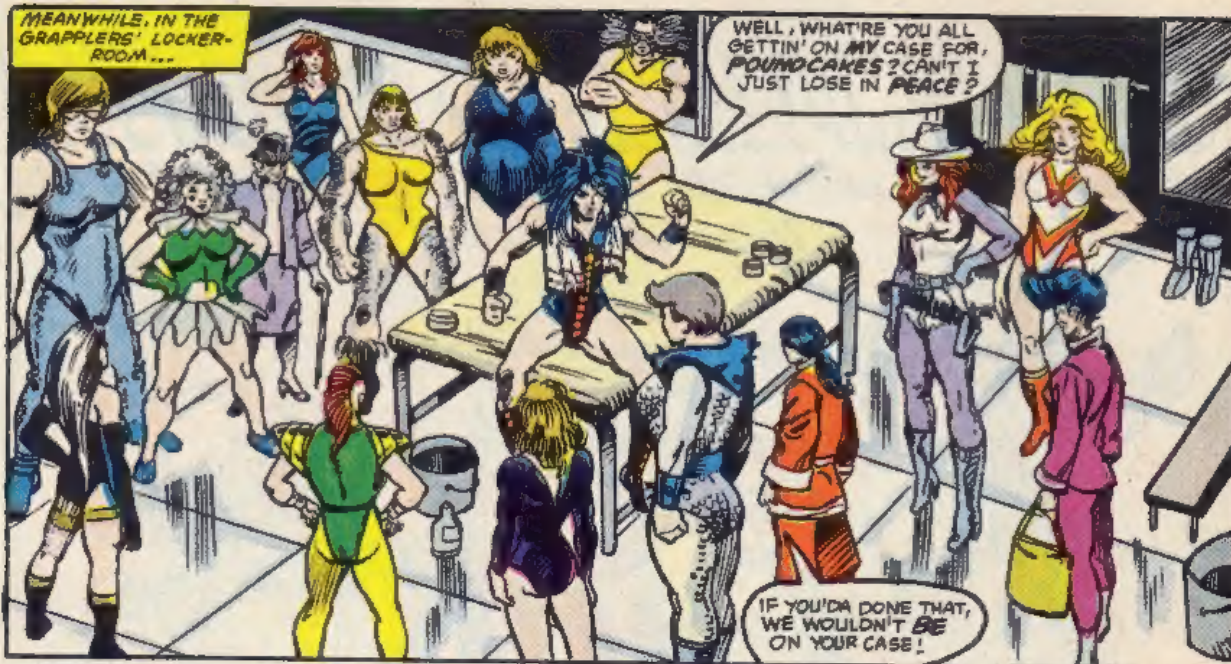
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MEANWHILE, IN THE GRAPPLERS' LOCKER-ROOM...



WELL, WHAT'RE YOU ALL GETTIN' ON MY CASE FOR, POUNDCAKES? CAN'T I JUST LOSE IN PEACE?

IF YOU'DA DONE THAT, WE WOULDN'T BE ON YOUR CASE!

LOOK, TITANIA-- YOU'RE ONE OF THE ORIGINAL GRAPPLERS-- TRAINED BY AUNTIE HERSELF. YOU KNOW THIS U.C.W.F. GIG IS GONNA PAY BIG SO WE DON'T HAFTA RENT OURSELVES OUT AS HIRED MUSCLE NO MORE.

PULLING THAT SORE LOSER ROUTINE IN OUR FIRST EXHIBITION AIN'T DOIN' ANY OF US ANY GOOD!

YOU TOO, AUNTIE FREEZE?

SHE'S RIGHT, MY DEAR!



YES, AND THE FEMALE WRESTLING LEAGUE IS ALREADY LOOKED DOWN UPON--

--BECAUSE OF YOU ORIGINAL GRAPPLERS' PRISON RECORDS!



I DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR THIS!

THE GRAPPLERS' OUTLAW DAYS ARE OVER! WE'RE LEGIT NOW! WE PAID OUR DUES! AND ONLY AUNTIE FREEZE'S MANY YEARS IN THE BUSINESS HELPED US GO STRAIGHT IN WRESTLING!

BUT NOW EVEN SHE'S AGAINST ME!

OH, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE! I'M HITTIN' THE SHOWERS!

AND THANKS A HEAP FOR THE SUPPORT, GIRLS!





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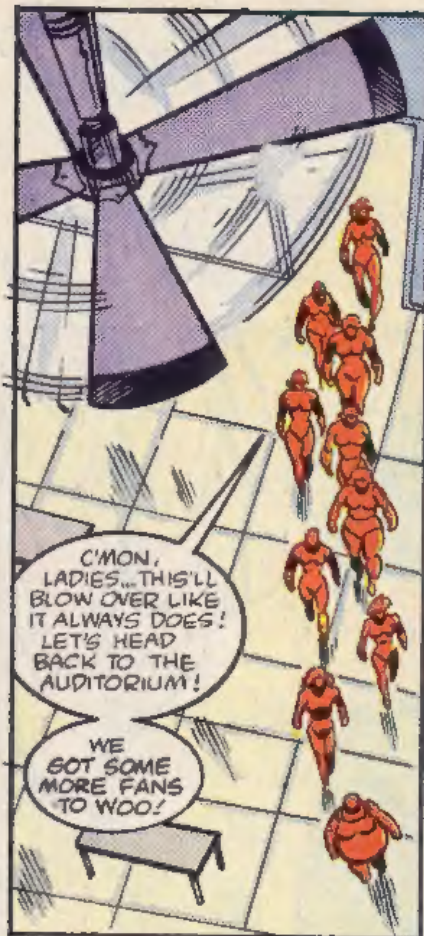
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Do it today. You wouldn't want to let Cap down, would you?





C'MON, LADIES... THIS'LL BLOW OVER LIKE IT ALWAYS DOES! LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE AUDITORIUM!

WE GOT SOME MORE FANS TO WOO!

HEY, NEW GIRL--**GOLDDIGGER**, ISN'T IT?--YOU HEARD AUNTIE FREEZE... IF YOU WANNA MAKE IT WITH THE GRAPPLERS YOU'D BETTER GET YOUR PRETTY LITTLE BEHIND UP TO RINGSIDE FOR SOME UP-CLOSE **EDUCATING!**

I'D JUST LIKE TO STAY A SECOND... AND, YOU KNOW, KINDA QUIET **TITANIA** DOWN.

SUIT YOURSELF, THEN.



THEY'RE GONE, AND THIS LITTLE BABY OUGHTA QUIET **TITANIA** DOWN...

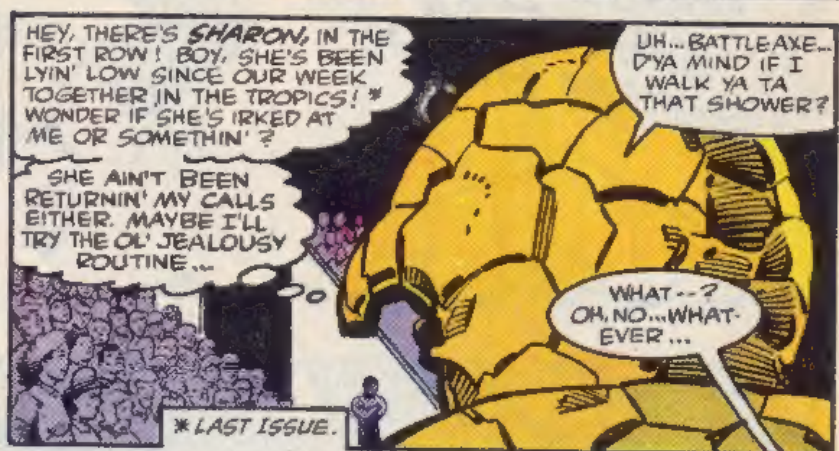
...FOR GOOD!



ELSEWHERE...

I'D LOVE TO STAY AND CHEW THE FAT WITH YOU, CHAMP... BUT I NEED ME A SHOWER BAD... IF YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?

YEP, I'M THE SAME WAY AFTER A MATCH!



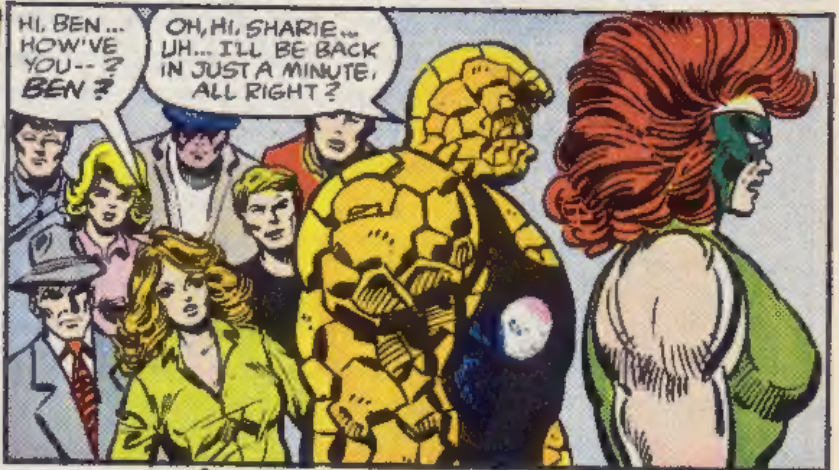
HEY, THERE'S **SHARON**, IN THE FIRST ROW! BOY, SHE'S BEEN LYIN' LOW SINCE OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE TROPICS! \* WONDER IF SHE'S IRKED AT ME OR SOMETHIN'?

SHE AIN'T BEEN RETURNIN' MY CALLS EITHER. MAYBE I'LL TRY THE OL' JEALOUSY ROUTINE...

UH... **BATTLEAXE**... D'YA MIND IF I WALK YA TA THAT SHOWER?

WHAT--? OH, NO...WHAT-EVER...

\* LAST ISSUE.



HI, BEN... HOW'VE YOU--? **BEN?**

OH, HI, **SHARIE**... UH... I'LL BE BACK IN JUST A MINUTE, ALL RIGHT?



WHILE AHEAD...

GOLDDIGGER?  
IS THAT YOU? HEY,  
DO ME A FAVOR AND  
GET ME A FRESH  
BAR OF SOAP,  
WILLYA?



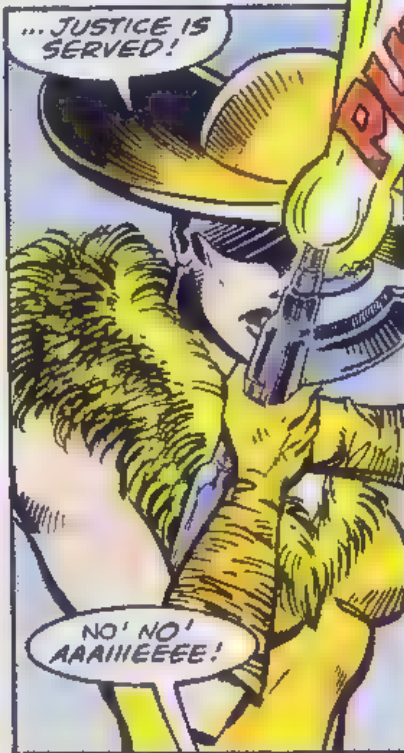
YOUR  
CRIMES HAVE  
GONE UNPUNISHED  
FOR FAR TOO LONG,  
TITANIA!



UNPUNISHED?  
WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN... DIDN'T YOU  
SEE THAT FIGHT I  
JUST LOST? I'VE  
BEEN PUNISHED  
BUT GOOD!

NOW QUIT  
KIDDING, PUT  
THAT TOY DOWN  
AND GET ME  
THE SOAP,  
PLEASE.

SORRY,  
TITANIA...  
NO SOAP...



... JUSTICE IS  
SERVED!

NO! NO!  
AAAAIEEEEE!



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THOUGHT I  
HEARD A  
SCREAM!

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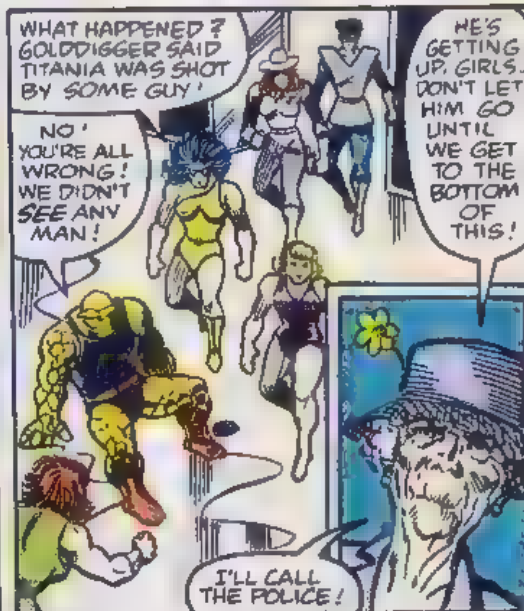
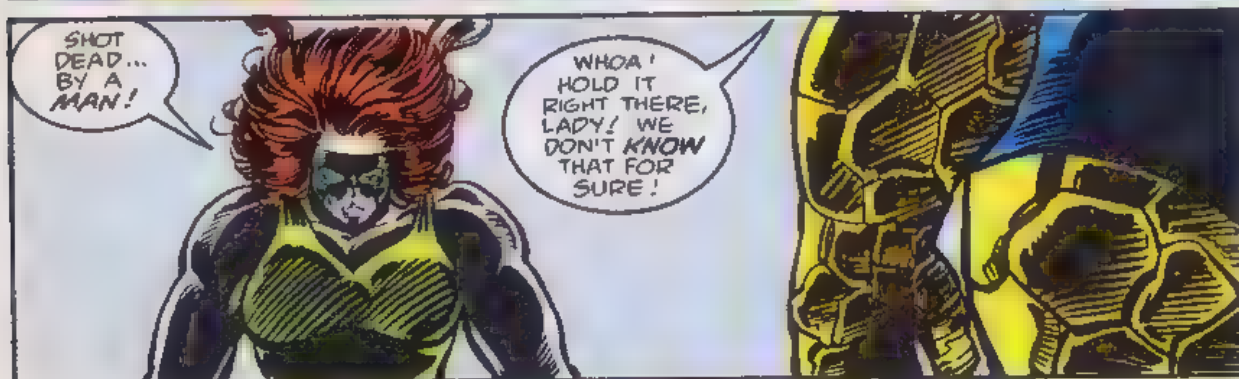
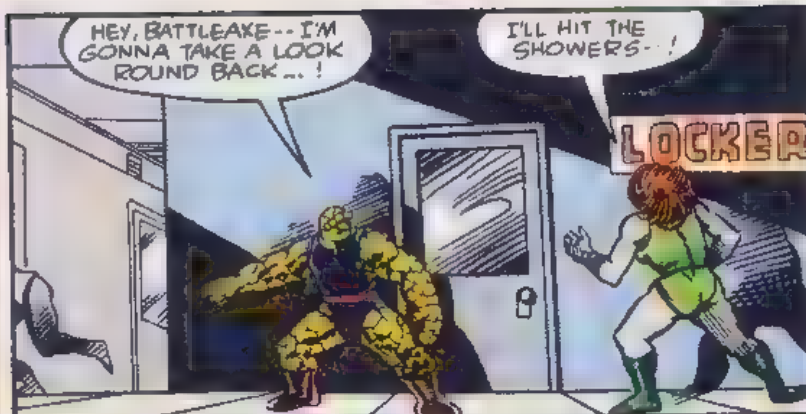
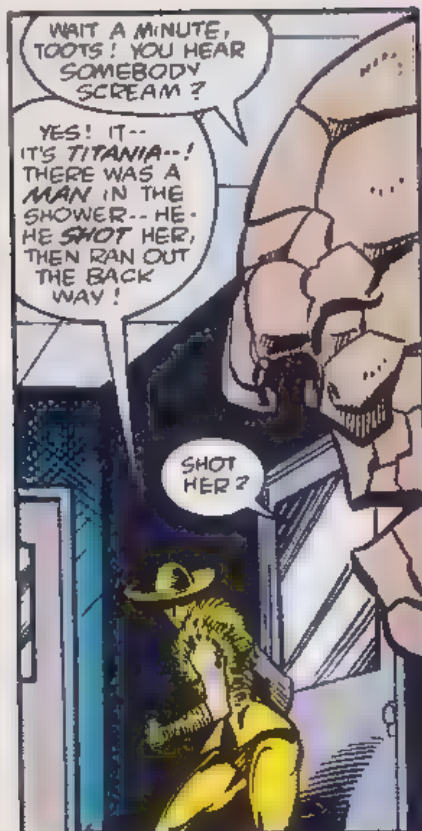
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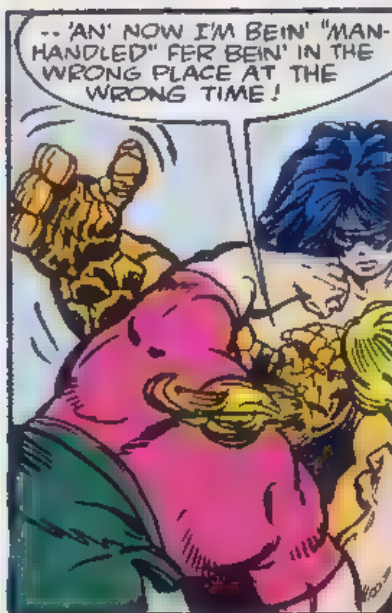
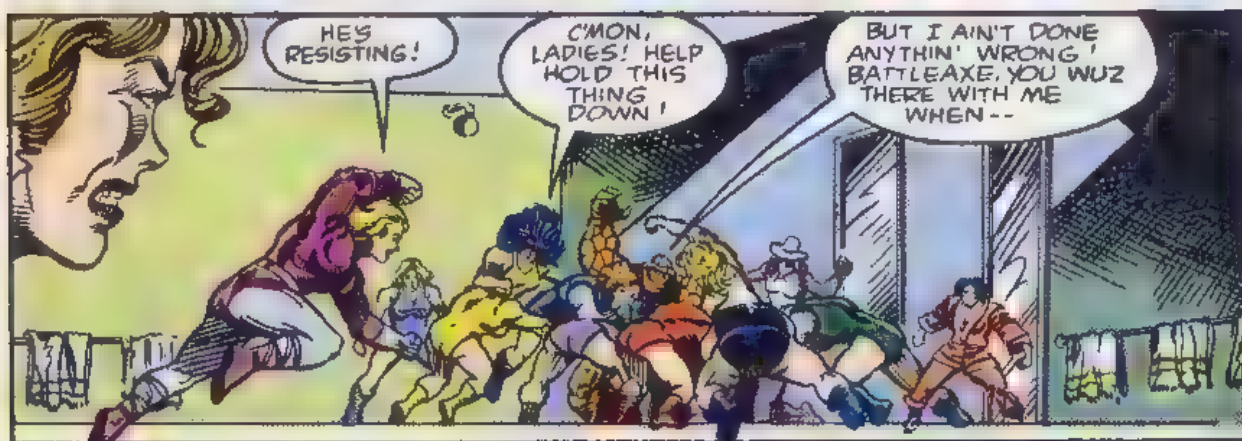
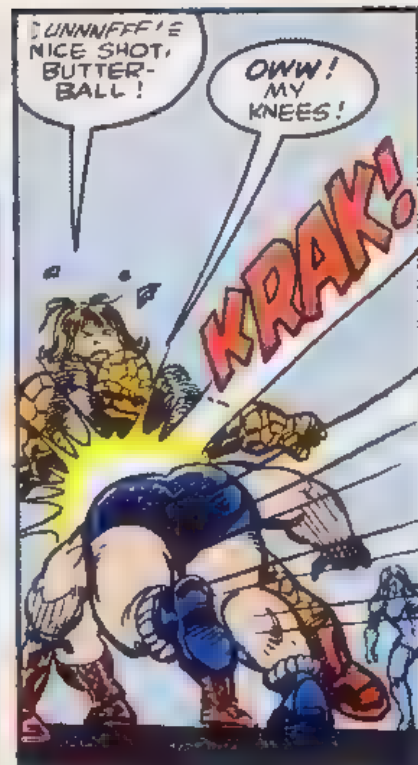
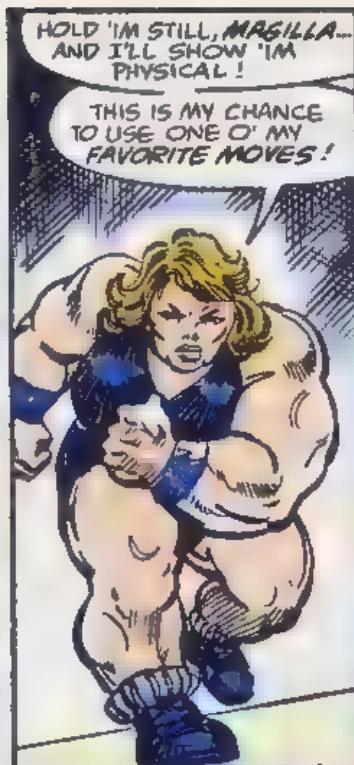
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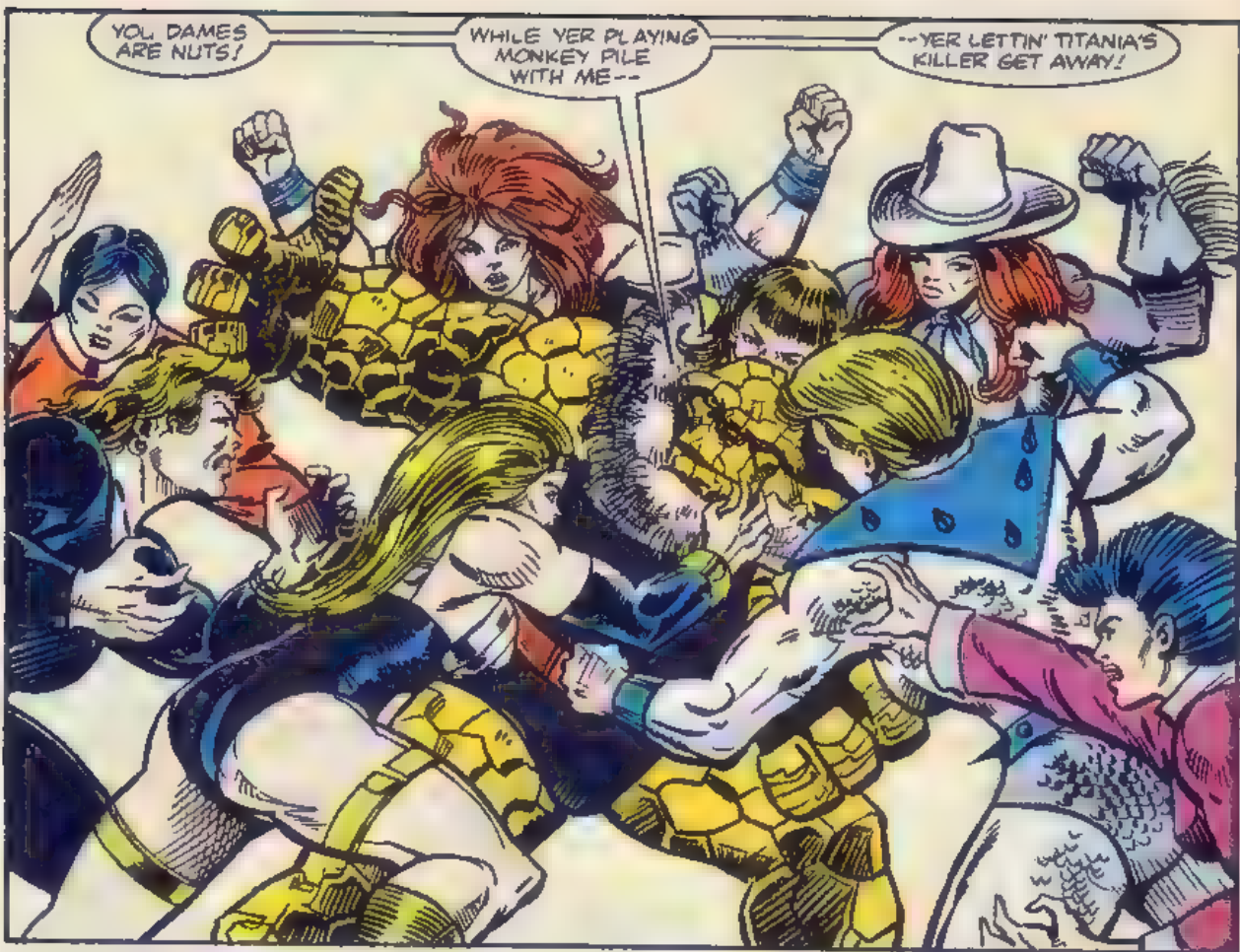
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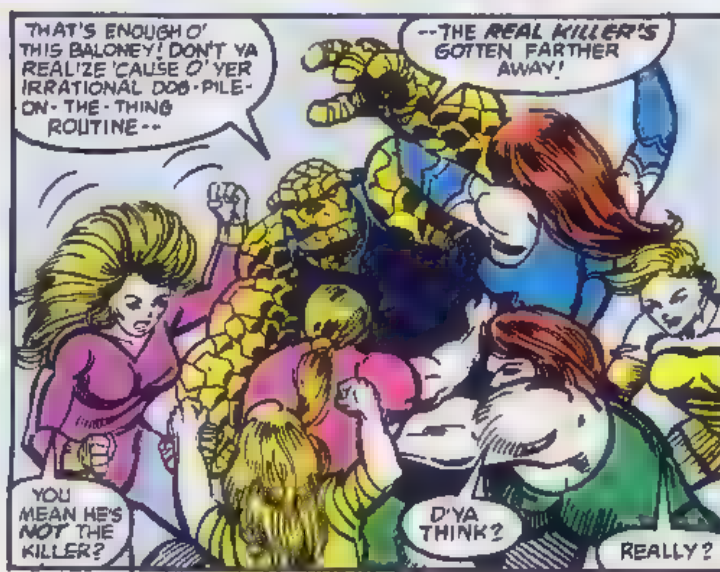
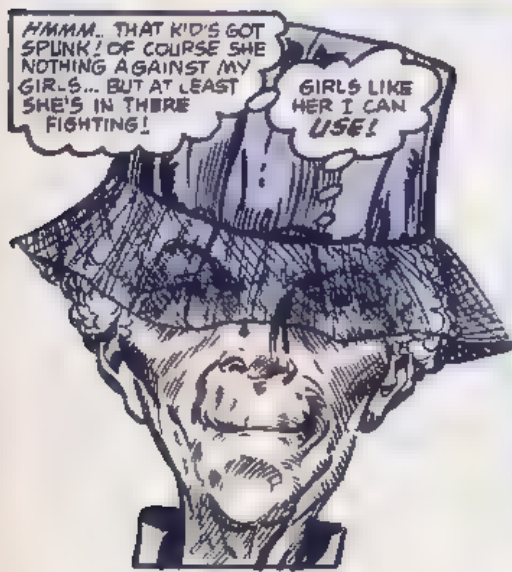
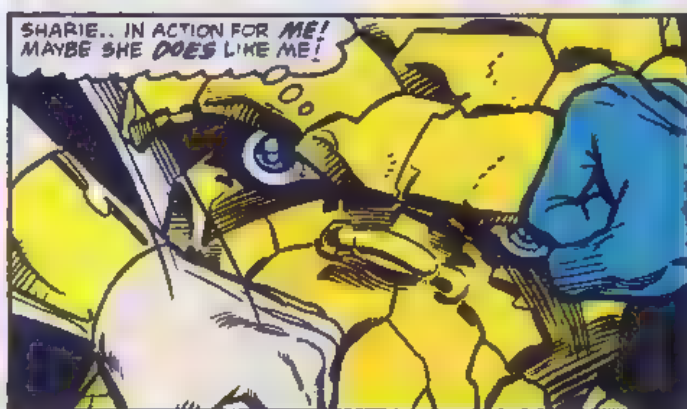
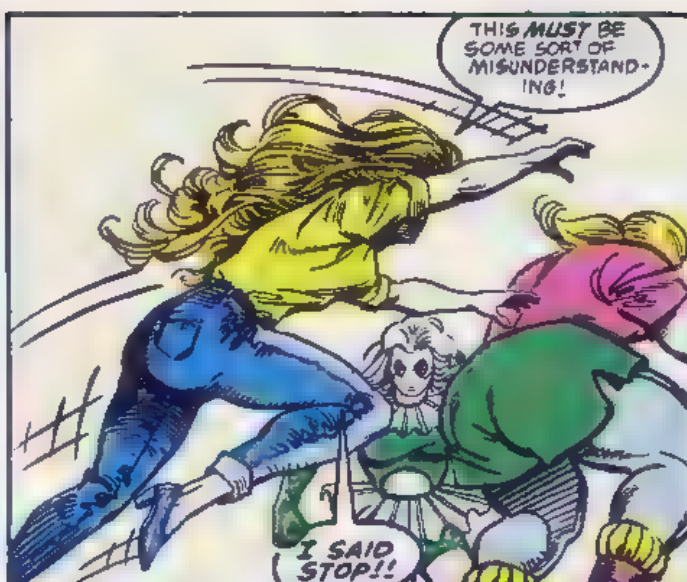




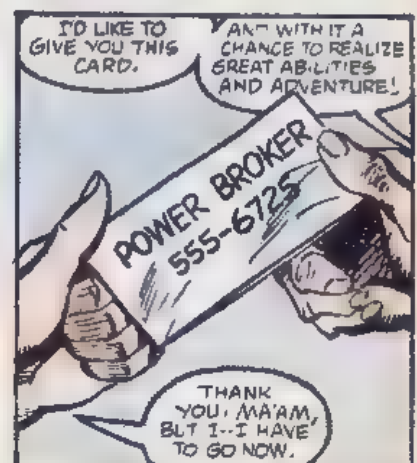
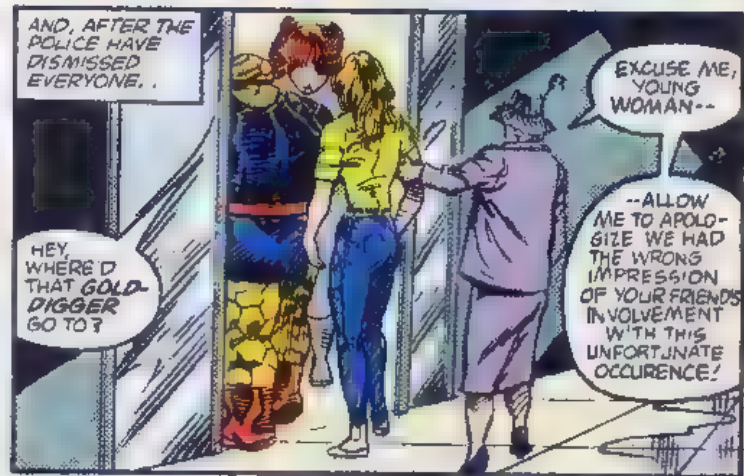
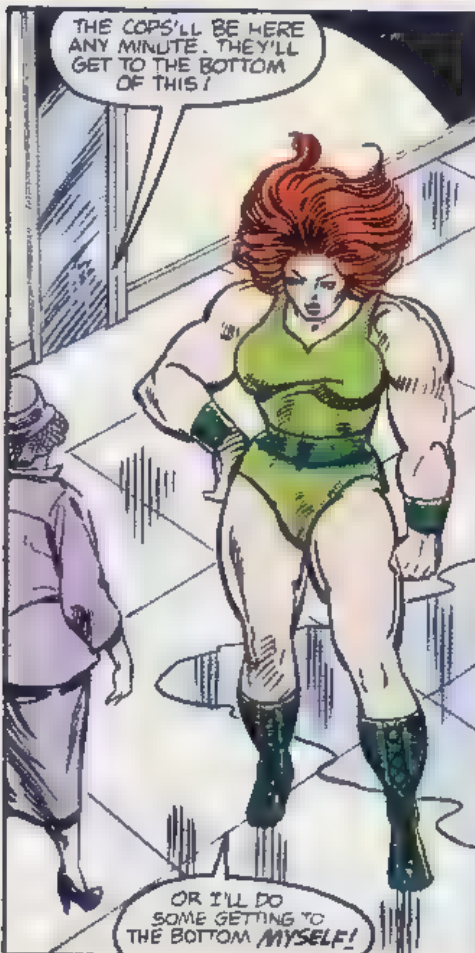




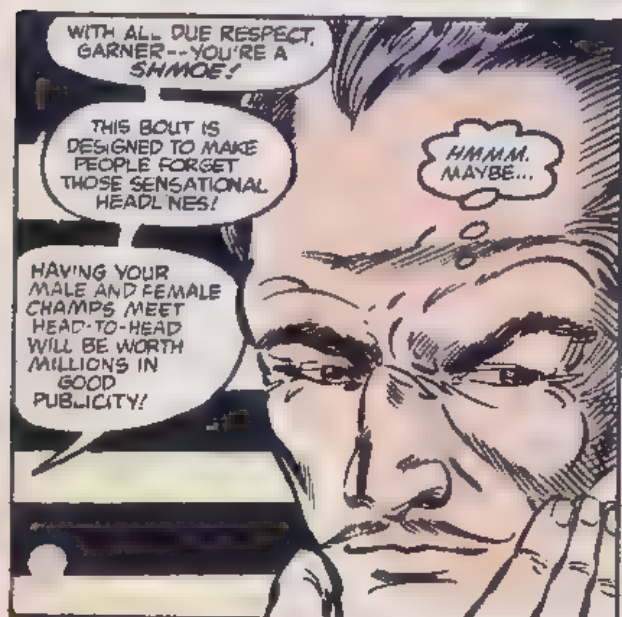
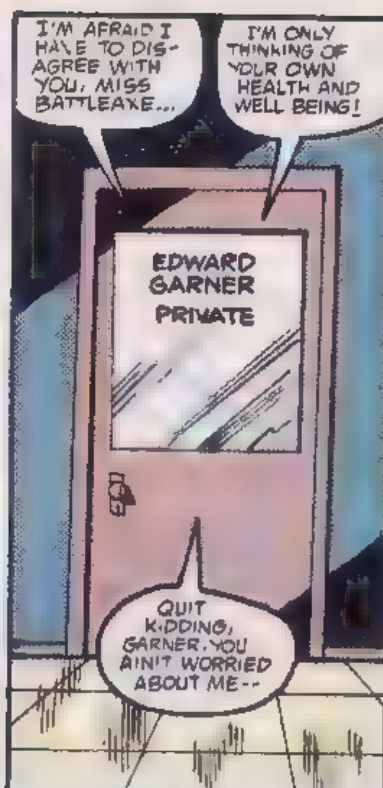
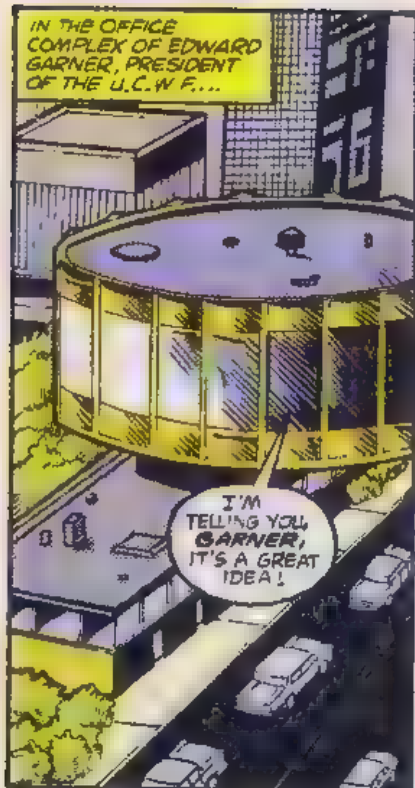














BEN, BATTLEAXE'S SUGGESTED A UNIQUE NEW FORMAT FOR OUR WRESTLING EXHIBITIONS. WE'VE ALREADY GOT TAG-TEAM MATCHES, FREE-FOR-ALL BOUTS, EVEN MIDGET WRESTLING--

-- WHAT I WANT TO DO IS INSTITUTE CO-ED MATCHES TO OUR CARDS! AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO INTRODUCE THIS NEW ATTRACTION THAN TO HAVE THE WOMEN'S CHAMP MIX IT UP WITH THE MEN'S CHAMP?



WHAT?! KNEW IT!

WELL, YA CAN COUNT ME OUT, O-U-T, OUT! I AIN'T WRESTLIN' NO SKIRT FER MONEY! IT'S CHEAP SENSATIONALISM AN' YA OUGHTA BE ASHAMED, ED!



WHATS A MATTER, CHAMP, 'FRAID YA CAN'T BEAT A SKIRT?



DON'T TRY AN' GET MY GOAT, B.A. 'CAUSE I AIN'T GOT ONE!

HOLD IT, YOU TWO--KNOCK IT OFF!

YOU ARE AFRAID OF ME, CHAMP? HA! HE IS JUST A BIG ORANGE CHICKEN, AFTER ALL!

HA! SOME CHAMPION!



LOOK, I GAVE YA MY ANSWER... AN' THAT'S THAT! AN' YA KNOW WHAT? I'M GETTIN' PRETTY SICK O' ALL THIS-- THE WRESTLIN', THE PROPOSITIONS AN' EVEN YOU WOMEN, TOO!

BEN, WAIT!



I THOUGHT SURE HE'D WANT TO GET ME AND THE GRAPPLERS BACK FOR WHAT WE DID TO HIM THE OTHER DAY--

--OH WELL... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP MOARIN' ON HIM, GARN... HE'LL COME AROUND!

I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE, MISS BATTLEAXE. I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE!



THAT NIGHT, AT  
DINNER TIME...

# SMOKE STEAK HOUSE

OH, YOU  
SHOULD DO  
IT, BEN!

I'LL SAY  
IT ONCE, AN'  
I'LL SAY IT  
AGAIN, SHAR--

STEAK  
HOUSE  
MEAT LIKE  
YOU WON'T  
BELIEVE!

-- I AIN'T WRESTLIN'  
BATTLE AXE FER NO  
AMOUNT O' DOUGH!

NOBODY LIKED THAT  
PIPSQUEAK FROM "TAXI"  
AFTER HE STARTED WRESTLIN'  
CHICKS ON TV. I WANT  
PEOPLE TA KEEP LOVIN' THE  
EVER-LOVIN' BLUE-  
EYED THING!

THERE'S  
NOTHING WRONG  
WITH EQUALS  
COMPETING...  
EVEN IF THEY  
ARE OF THE  
OPPOSITE  
SEXES.

LOOK, SHARIE, I  
HAD TA HIT A  
FEW WOMEN  
MENACES IN  
MY DAY--

-- AN' I HATED  
DOIN' THAT 'YA  
KNOW, YOU WOMEN  
ARE REALLY  
STARTIN' TA GET  
UNDER MY SKIN!

EXCUSE ME, WOULD  
YOU LIKE TO SEE OUR  
DESSERT MENU?

WHA--? OH,  
NAH... NO,  
THANKS

I WAS TALKING TO THAT  
AUNT FREEZE WOMAN, AND  
SHE GAVE ME THIS CARD I'M  
THINKING OF CONTACTING  
THIS POWER BROKER.

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND,  
HE GLARANTEES TO  
INCREASE YOUR STRENGTH  
AT LEAST 100 TIMES OR  
YOUR MONEY BACK!

WITH THAT KIND OF  
STRENGTH I COULD EVEN  
JOIN THE GRAPPLERS.

LEMME SEE THAT!  
SO THAT'S WHERE ALL  
THESE SUPER-DUPES  
ARE COMIN' FROM!

YOU AIN'T GONNA DO NO AUGMENTIN'  
O' NOTHING, SHARIE!

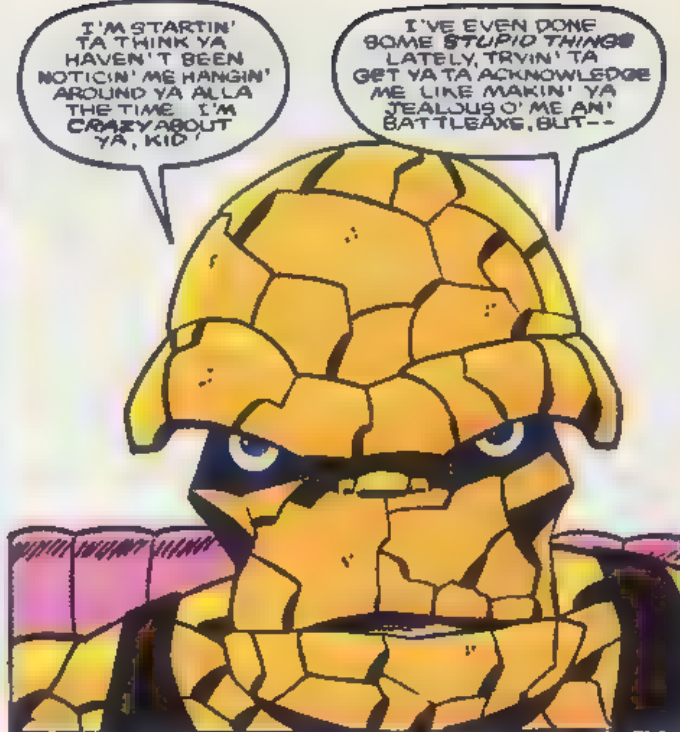
SAVED BY THE  
WAITER... HE JUST  
KEPT A GOOD NIGHT  
FRM GOING BAD BEN  
LET'S CHANGE THE  
SUBJECT!





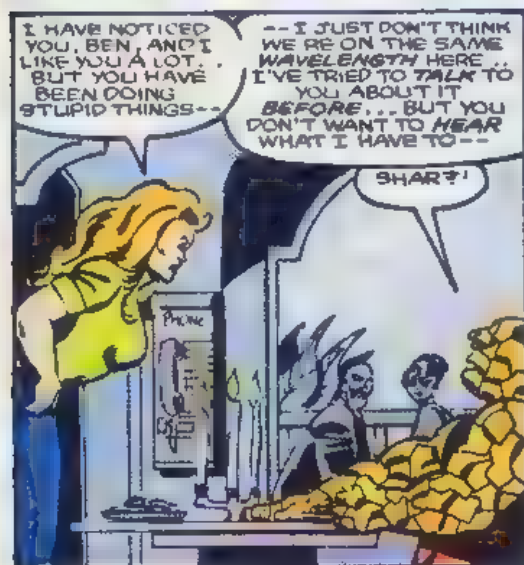
JUST A DARN MINUTE, BEN. WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TELL ME WHAT I CAN AND CAN'T DO!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS PAWN BROKER CLOWN IS, BUT I DO KNOW HE JUST CAN'T BE LEGAL! YOU MIGHT GET HURT! C'MON, SHARIE. I CARE ABOUT YOU!



I'M STARTIN' TA THINK YA HAVEN'T BEEN NOTICIN' ME HANGIN' AROUND YA ALL THE TIME. I'M CRAZY ABOUT YA, KID!

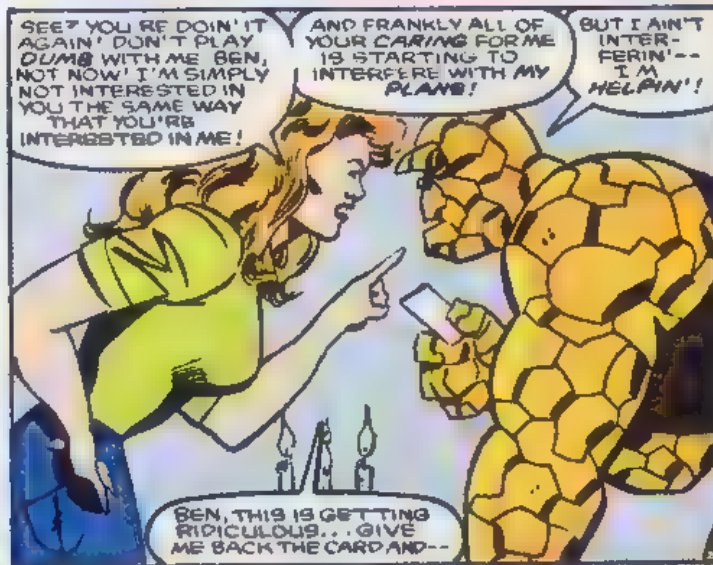
I'VE EVEN DONE SOME STUPID THINGS LATELY, TRYIN' TA GET YA TA ACKNOWLEDGE ME LIKE MAKIN' YA JEALOUS O' ME AN' BATTLEAXE, BUT--



I HAVE NOTICED YOU, BEN, AND I LIKE YOU A LOT. BUT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING STUPID THINGS--

-- I JUST DON'T THINK WE'RE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH HERE. I'VE TRIED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT BEFORE... BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO--

SHARIE!



SEE? YOU'RE DOIN' IT AGAIN! DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME, BEN. NOT NOW! I'M SIMPLY NOT INTERESTED IN YOU THE SAME WAY THAT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ME!

AND FRANKLY ALL OF YOUR CARING FOR ME IS STARTING TO INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS!

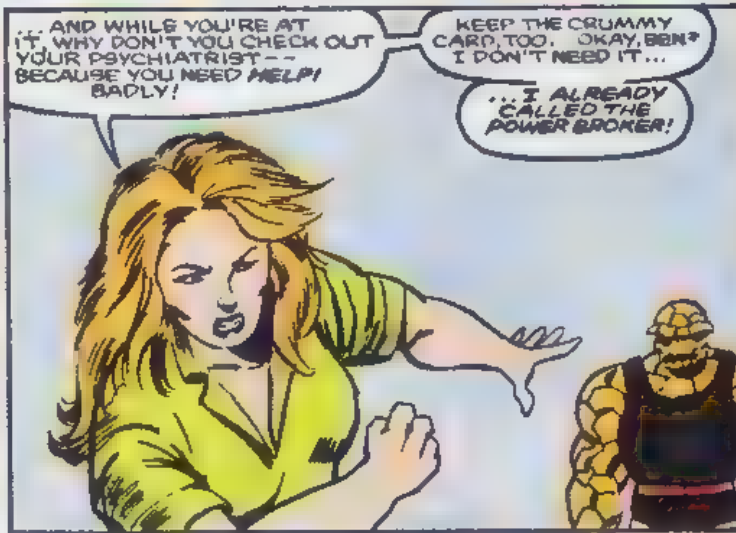
BUT I AIN'T INTERFERIN'-- I'M HELPIN'!

BEN, THIS IS GETTING RIDICULOUS... GIVE ME BACK THE CARD AND--



OH, NO YA DON'T I'M GONNA CHECK THIS GUY OUT!

FINE, BEN



AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, WHY DON'T YOU CHECK OUT YOUR PSYCHIATRIST-- BECAUSE YOU NEED HELP! BADLY!

KEEP THE CRUMMY CARD, TOO. OKAY, BEN? I DON'T NEED IT...

... I ALREADY CALLED THE POWER BROKER!



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8.11	1	15
13.24.28	1	10
25.7 29-Up	1	10
ARROW	1	5
1.4	1	5
ATEAM	3	8
AVENGERS	31-52	54.56
59-65	2	5
66.87.98.99	2	5
68.70.72-82	2	5
84.91	2	5
71.83.92.97	3	30
94.98	15	105
101.108.106.109	7	70
112	1	1
107.110.111	1	1
121.140	1	1
141.163.187.180	1	1
195.196	1	1
184.188.18.191	2	20
187.194.197.233	1	1
250.280.281	1	1
234.249.281.250	1	1
262.264-Up	7	7
BABY	1	6
2.3	4	5
4.5	3	3
6.8.9.14	2	2
7	1	1
10	2	2
11.13	1	1
QUANT. SIZE	1	30
2.5	2	2
WALKER THE BRAVE	1	10
7-Up	1	10
GALILESTRA	1	1
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BEAUTY AND THE BEAST	1.4	1
BOZARNE	1	1
ADVENTURES	25.29.32.34	1
26.30.31	1	1
27.32.33	1	1
28.34.35	1	1
30.31	1	1
BLACK DRAGON	1	30
2.6	2	2
BLACK GOLIATH	1	1
2.5	1	1
BLACK PANTHER	1	1
2.14	1	1
BLADE RUNNER	1	1
BLUP	1	1
BUCKAROO BANZAI	1.2	1
CAPTAIN AMERICA	100	7
101.109	7	7
102.108.112.117	2	2
110.111.113	4	4
114.118.118.130	1	1
143.150	1	1
151.140	1	1
141.142.144.148	1	1
151.171	1	1

172 175	2 50
17A-24B	75
247	200
24R-255	200
30H	100
25H 107 30H-Up	75
ANNUALS	
1	200
2 4	75
5 7	125
GIANT-SIZE	
1	125
SPECIAL EDITION	
1	150
CAPTAIN MARVEL	
1 25	850
2 31 34	250
3 24	200
6 11	100
12 24 35	100
2B 30	400
35 37 62	500
GIANT-SIZE	
1	125
CHAMPIONS	
2 10 16 17	200
11 15	100
CLOCK & ODDER	1983
1 4	250
CLOCK & ODDER	
(1985)	
2 3	200
4 Up	75
CONAN	
6 11	100
12 15	800
17 24	600
24	500
2B 30	300
31 36 38-67 100	100
37 58	200
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2	75
3 4	125
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5	150
SPECIAL	
14 11 110	150
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CONAN THE DESTROYER	
1	75
CONAN THE KING	
1	250
2-Up	150
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1 4	100
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21 30 50-53	250
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100	
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131 138 167 162	200
151 156	150
158	150
53	750
50 115 184 168	50
185 166	400
170 176	75
177 185 197 200	200
223	100
201 210	125
21 224 224-Up	75
ANNUALS	
2 3	400
4	200
GIANT-SIZE	

DAZZLER	1	125
1	1	125
2	20	40
3	19	31-42
DEAD OF NIGHT	1	75
1	1	75
2	1	75
DEFENDERS	1	15
1	2	6
3	5	4
3.5	4	2
10	10	47.5
2	48	52.54
45	45	45
100	13	52
1	4	48.5
DEMONS THE MENACE	1	60
1	1	60
DEVIL DRUMMAJ	1	50
1	1	50
DR. STRANGE	1	5
1	1	5
3	10	25
3.10	25	48.53
1	24	26
53	53	53
CLASSICS	1	75
1.3	1	100
SPECIAL EDITION	1	1.60
1	1	1.60
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1	1	1.60
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124	149	151-175
176-199	201	208
209	250	250
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219	222	231
232	249	251-280
281	270	282
271-281	287	287
283	285	287
287	287	287
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(1979)		
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35	CONAN	100
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38	REY SONIA	250
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1	PETER THALES	75
MARVEL TALES		
4		100
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100	137	138
139	147	150
148	149	150
MARVEL TEAM-UP		
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4		500
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68	5	150
65	66	70
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MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE		
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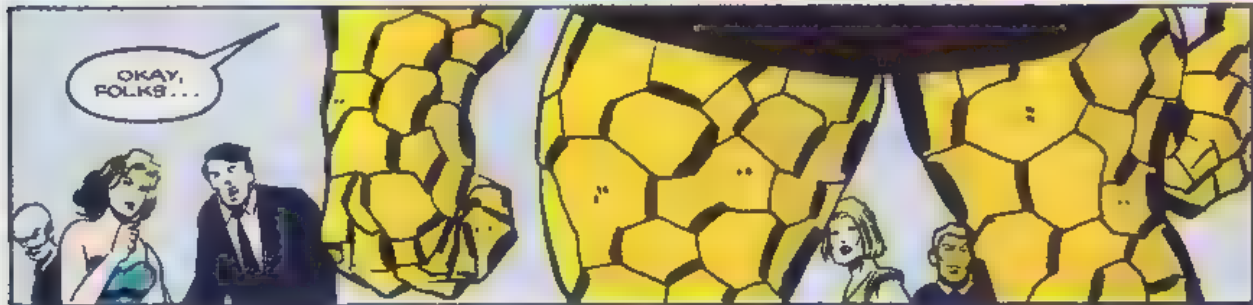
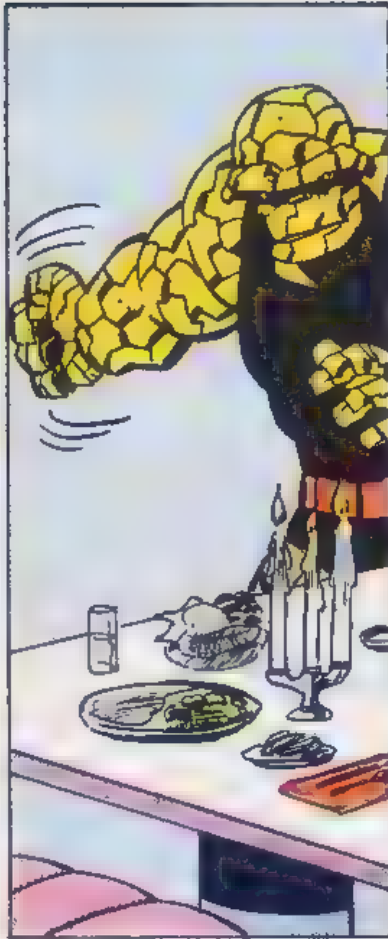


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32 57 59	1 50	252	4 00	1 200	3 00	3 00	WOLVERINE	11 50	1 50	
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76 80 100	1 25	261 267 269 Up	75	201 249 251 299	1 00	1 00	X-MEN	24 39 54 55	8 00	
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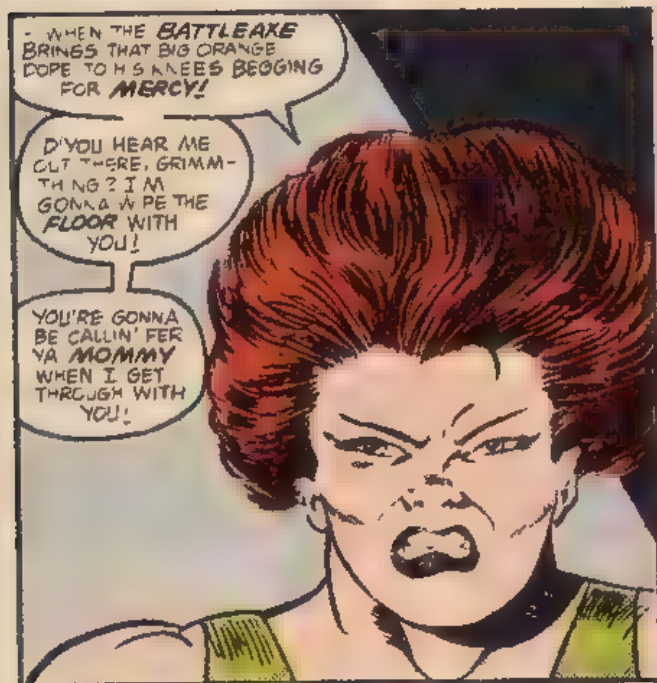
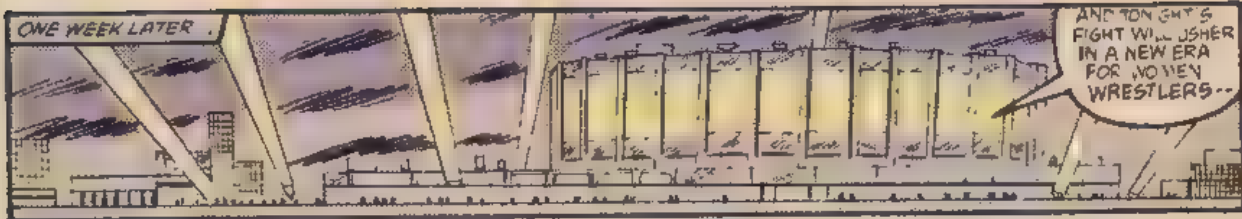
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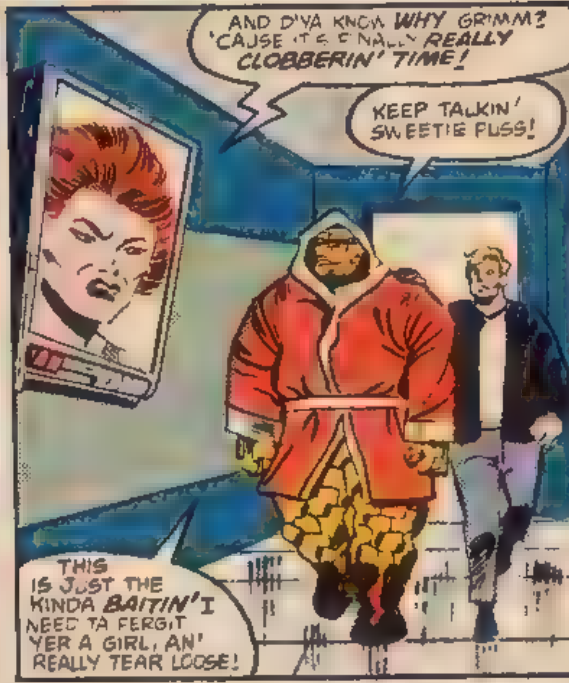


ONE WEEK LATER...

WHEN THE **BATTLEAXE** BRINGS THAT BIG ORANGE DOPE TO HIS KNEES BEGGING FOR **MERCY!**

D'YOU HEAR ME CMT THERE, GRIMM-TH NG? I AM GONNA WRE THE FLOOR WITH YOU!

YOU'RE GONNA BE CALLIN' FER VA MOMMY WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH YOU!



AND D'YA KNOW WHY GRIMM? 'CAUSE IT'S ENALLY REALLY CLOBBERIN' TIME!

KEEP TALKIN' SWEETIE PUSS!

THIS IS JUST THE KINDA BAITIN' I NEED TA FERGIT YER A GIRL, AN' REALLY TEAR LOOSE!



SOON...

LAY-DEEZ ANNND GENLL MENN... OUR FINAL BOUT TONIGHT...

C'MON, C'MON, GET ON WITH IT!

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER-- THE WOMAN'S CHAMPEEN, **BATTLE-AXE--**



--VERSLS THE MEN'S CHAMPEEN THE **THING!** IN AN ANYTHING GOES FREE-FOR-ALL-BOUT!

HURRY UP, PAL! I'M ITCHIN' TA GO!

UH. SO WITHOUT ANY FURTHER ADO-- LET THE MATCH BEGIN!

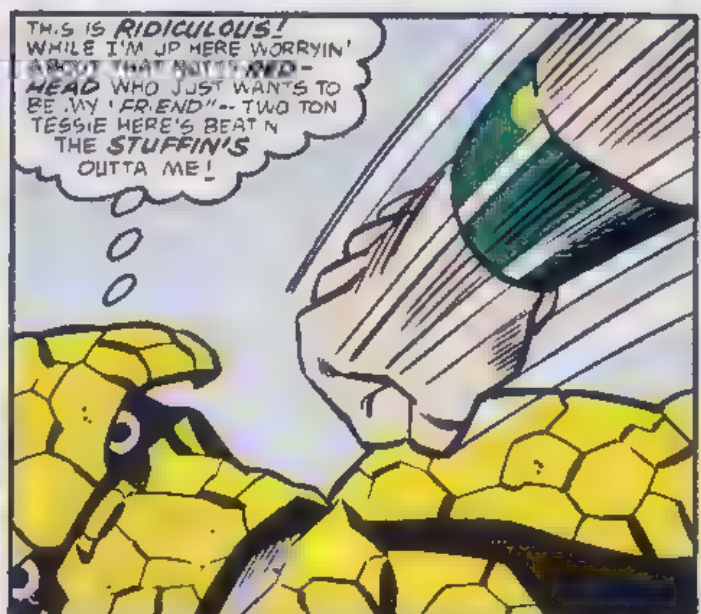
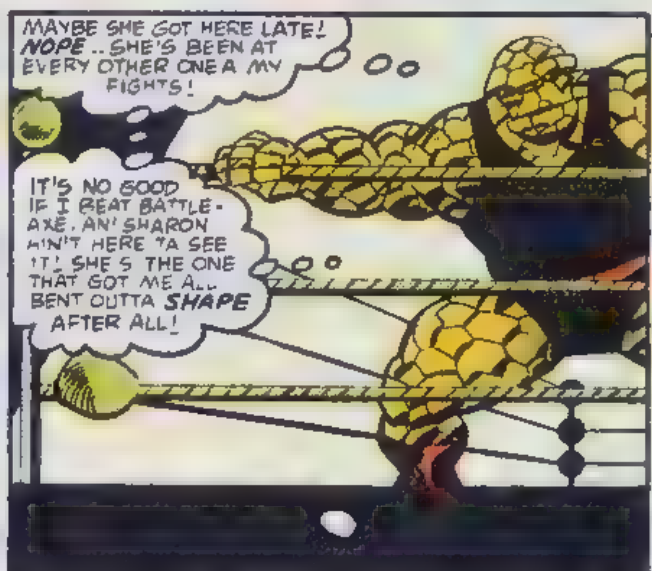
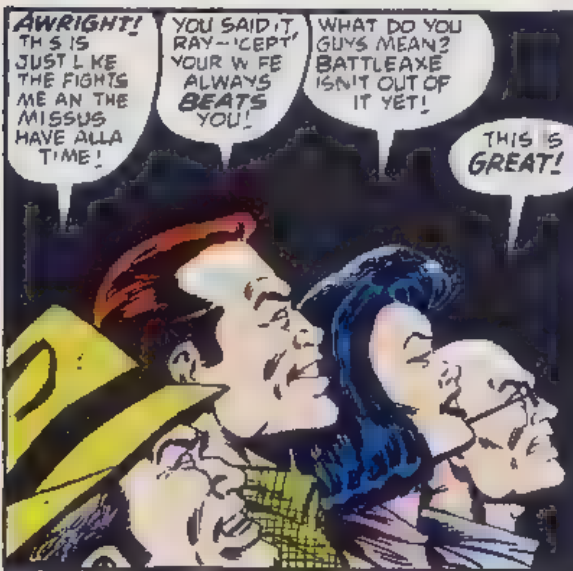
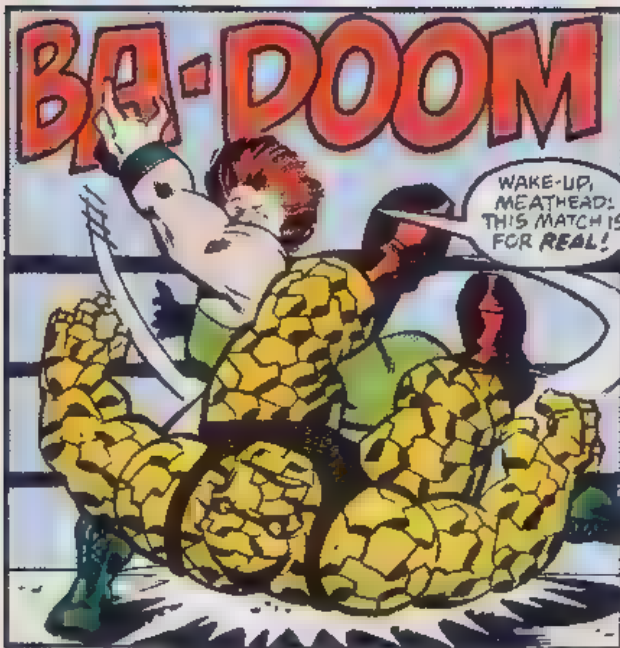


**DING!**

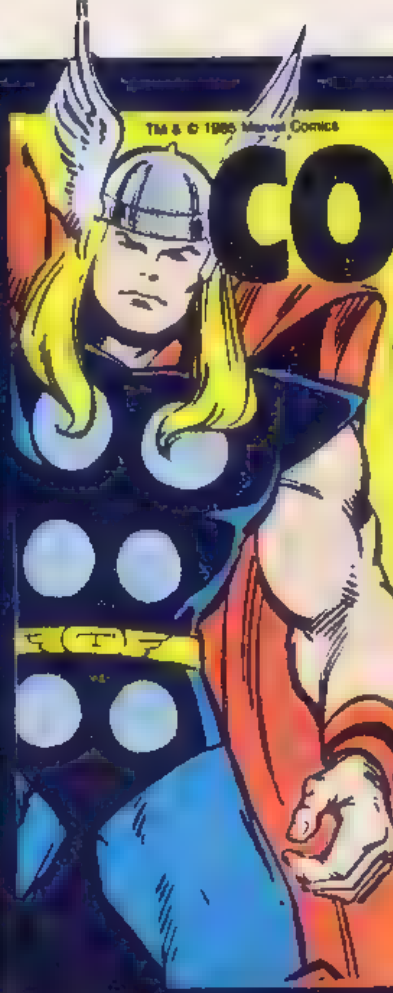
FUNNY-- I DON'T SEE SHARON HERE-- EVEN IF SHE IS MAD AT ME I THOUGHT SURE SHE'D--

FINALLY! HEAD'S UP THING! HERE I COME!!









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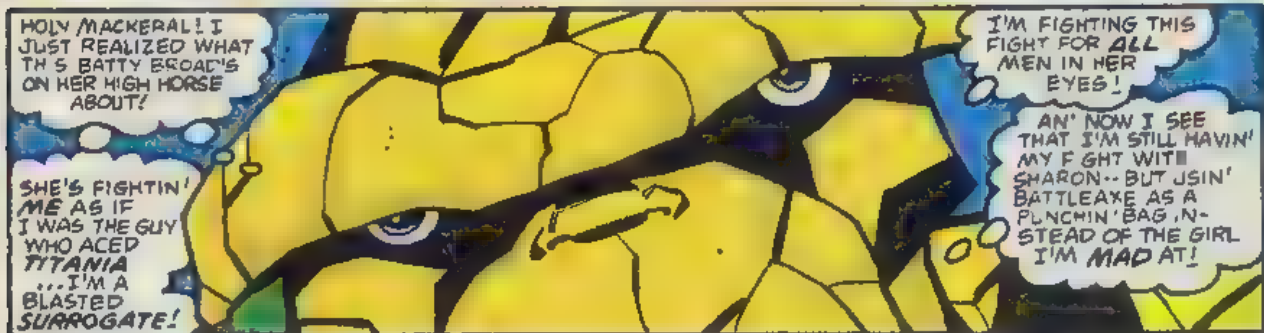
HOW DO I GET MYSELF INTO THESE SITUATIONS!

THAT WAS A LITTLE TOO CLOSE.



C'MON, "CHAMP" FIGHT BACK! FIGHT LIKE A MAN!

AT LEAST FIGHT LIKE TITANIA MUST'VE FOUGHT THAT SLEAZY GUY THAT KILLED HER!



HOLY MACKERAL! I JUST REALIZED WHAT TH'S BATTY BROAD'S ON HER HIGH HORSE ABOUT!

SHE'S FIGHTIN' ME AS IF I WAS THE GUY WHO ACED TITANIA ... I'M A BLASTED SURROGATE!

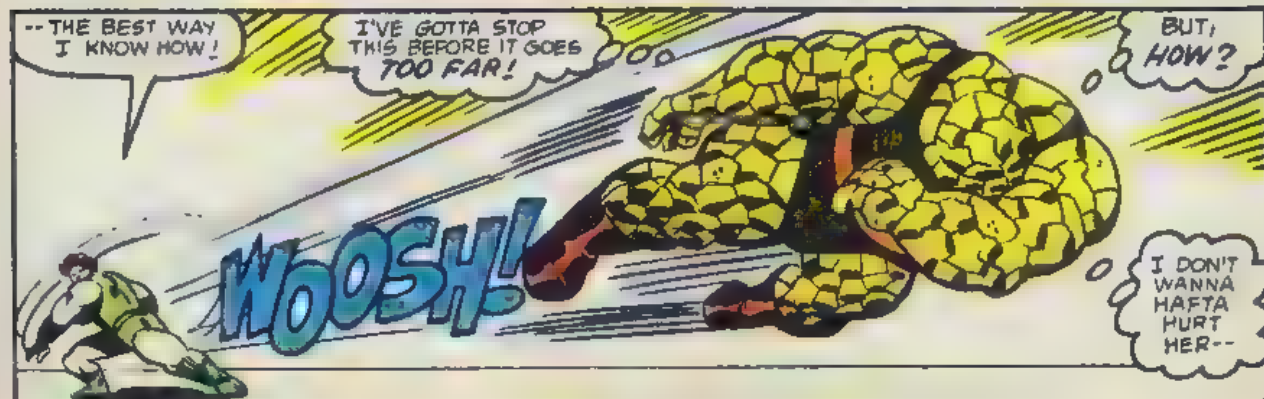
I'M FIGHTING THIS FIGHT FOR ALL MEN IN HER EYES!

AN' NOW I SEE THAT I'M STILL HAVIN' MY FIGHT WITH SHARON-- BUT USIN' BATTLEAXE AS A PUNCHIN' BAG IN-STEAD OF THE GIRL I'M MAD AT!



HANG ON HERE, TOOTS! I THINK WE BOTH GOT SOME SERIOUS HEAD PROBLEMS HERE ... AND WE'RE HANDLIN' 'EM ALL WRONG!

I'M HANDLING MY PROBLEMS--



-- THE BEST WAY I KNOW HOW!

I'VE GOTTA STOP THIS BEFORE IT GOES TOO FAR!

BUT, HOW?

I DON'T WANNA HAFTA HURT HER--





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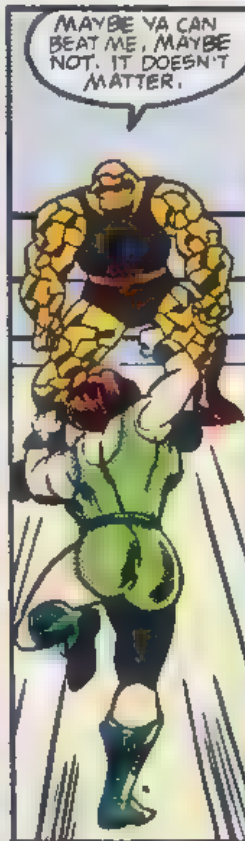
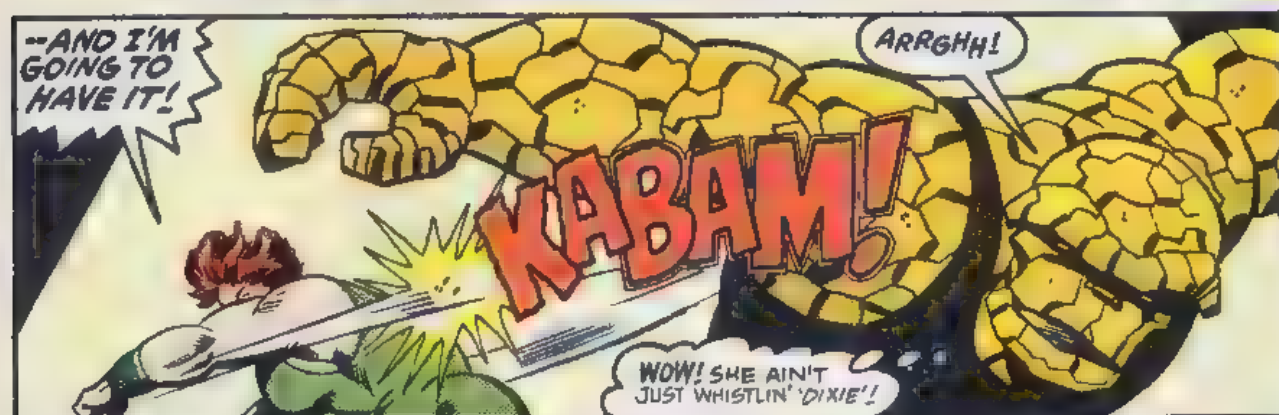
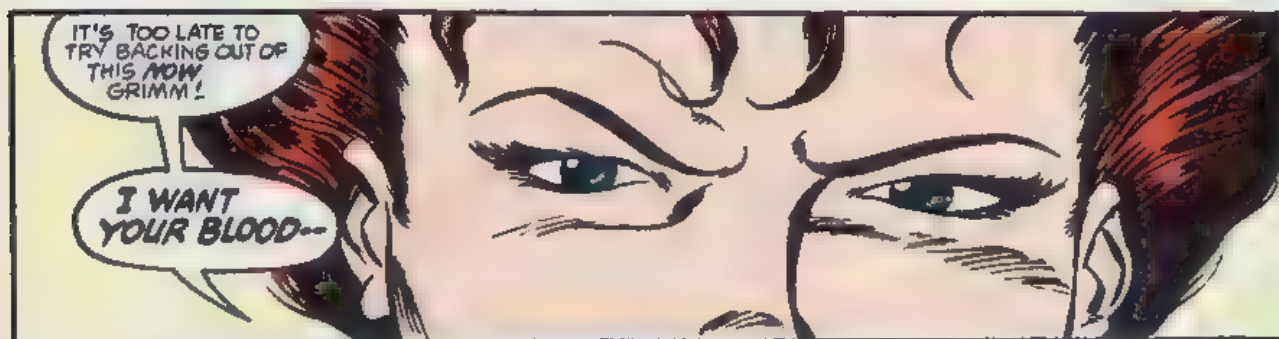
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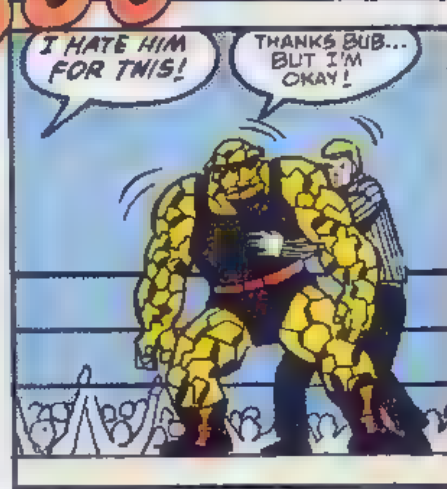
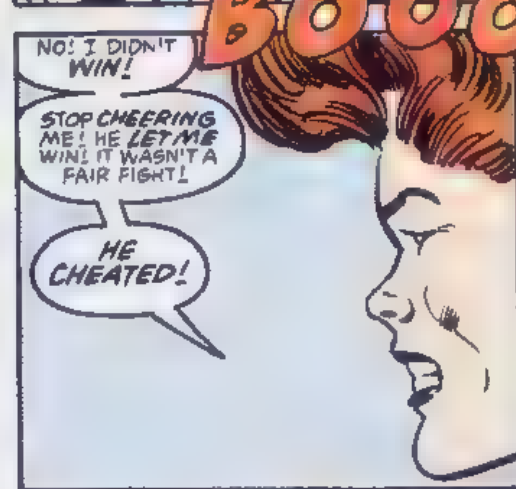
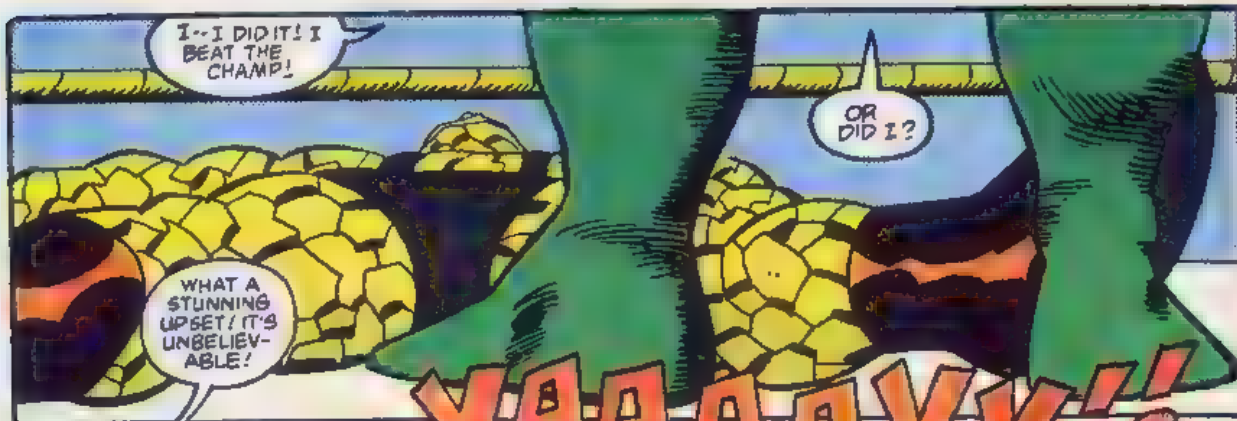
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**NEXT THE SPHINX AND THE PUPPETMASTER**



# GRIMM TIDINGS

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Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Mike, Ron, Jack, Bob, Mark, and Jim,  
I thought THING #27 was awesome, and I just wanted to write and tell you about it.

The pictures and coloring were perfect and the cover was better than any I've seen in a while.

The only thing I didn't like was the cheap shot you gave Ben in the end. He finally got Sharon (Tarianna) in his sights, when he finds out he's taking her place instead of working alongside her. That was really cruel, but I guess you have your reasons.

Once again, let me congratulate you on a job well done!

Eric Botting  
East Hartford, Ct.

Dear Editors,

THING #27 was fantastic. The mag had it all—romance, action, mystery and surprise. I really liked Ben's eyes on page one. My friend says it was a mistake that was made to look strange. I say that's the way Ron Wilson wanted it from the start. So what is it?

It was good to see Team America again. I like their new costumes. Are the outfits permanent?

How come Tarianna/Sharon didn't say a word? Doesn't she want the Thing? My friend says it's because she's stuck up.

Yolanda Altabille  
6 Barbara Road  
Lake Ronkonkoma, L.I. 11779

Well, Yolanda, if you were nearly run down by a gang of bikers you'd have an odd expression on your face, too. That answers your first question. Regarding the Thunderiders new costumes—all things are permanent, temporarily. And, as you've noticed by now, Sharon's talking—and Ben may be worse off than ever.

Dear Mike and Ron,

I've only been following the adventures of everyone's favorite blue-eyed hero for about thirteen issues now, and I regret not reading the previous ones. Mike, you've taken the Thing and shown us a side of him that hasn't been spotlighted in the Fantastic Four before, because the other members' powers always seemed to outshine his. Now we get to see another facet of Ben, besides the whining, self-pitiful Thing of the F.F. Ben Grimm is one of the strongest beings in the Marvel universe. Let's see him fight some of the villains that made F.F. history like Blastaar or the Super Skrull (Where's he been?) Why not bring back Wundarr (the Aquarian)? I'd seen Ron Wilson's artwork in Marvel-Two-In-One, and I felt that his figures were too bulky and stiff but he's come into his own on this mag. The art is more fluid, and Team America (Thunderiders) have never looked better. Gentlemen, when are you going to have a THING Annual?

Larry Ruffin  
198 Fairview Blvd.  
Hempstead, N.Y. 11550

Sorry, Larry, at the moment there are no plans for a THING Annual. Any great team on any world must have talented mem-

bers, who must sometimes lead, follow, give support or stand in the shadows. Everyone shines, but not all at once. With the Thing on his own now, he must be "everything" at once, all the time. Hmmm!

We agree with you, Larry, Ron Wilson's unique version of Team America was the best we've seen so far. But then, Ron Wilson does the best versions we've seen of everybody so far. That's why we're going to keep our eyes open for the new WOLF PACK series which will be penciled by Ron and written by editorials own Larry Hama. Why not put it on your Christmas list.

Dear Grimm Tidings People,

What?!! The Everloving Thing in the Thunderiders? No way! I know Mike Carlin won't allow this to be. Mike's way too smart for that to happen. In THING #27 you make old Ben look so confused. His life is going down hill real quickly. Maybe Ben needs to see his dear old aunt Petunia—she'll set Ben on the right track again. This kid Astrovik has great potential. He and the Thing would make a superb team in the near future. I also think it's a great idea to make the Thing go after a girl we think is Tarianna. Well Mike wrote another "fantastic"...oops, sorry Ben. Just keep up the wonderful work and I'll be happy to buy the Thing every month. Bye now.

Jose Sarduy  
421 Madison Street  
Westburg, N.Y. 11590

Dear Editors,

The Thing Thunderiding? What will Vance ride—sidecar? I suppose if Ben Grimm became a biker, he could get leathers and tattoos and no one would notice that he's really mutated and not much fun on sleepover biking trips.

If Sharon is in fact Tarianna, that would make Vance pretty much dead weight. Why not leave him in the dust before "Sharonanna" realizes that the Thing comes complete with a runaway parasite? Now that he's added his two cents, there is no reason to belabor the issue. Go for it Ben, she's in the palm of your hand!

Richard Riech  
Slowride Road  
Daton, Oh.

Dear Mark,

I really enjoyed THING #27 and have always found the humor to be top of the line. But on page 12, panel 4, the line "kinda like piloting a pogo plane" is pushing the envelope. It's a little too sick for me.

I also think you guys slipped on page 3. I mean "the guy from the F.F." I thought he looked familiar... line, is not believable. Give me a break! Once you see the Thing, how can you not remember?

The fact that Wolf comes through to help out was the best part of the issue.

James Accardi  
230 Bluepoint Ave.  
Bluepoint, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Editors:

Correct me if I'm wrong, but in "Rocky Grimm: Space Ranger," the Beyonder's planet created a physical embodiment of Ben Grimm's "human" side, which Ben then destroyed. What Ben has misunderstood is that creating a representation of his buried ego out of the planetary material is quite different from actually pulling that ego out of his body and installing it in a physical form. In other words, what Ben destroyed was only a symbol of his human self: quite real, yes, but actually not more than a replica, created by the planet in response to Ben's psychic impulses. Therefore, Ben's ego, or "humanity," if you will, remains buried deep inside him. But it is very much a part of him, making up the essential Ben Grimm, and always will. After all, to suggest that one's essence can be less than human just because one wears a monstrous form is to come perilously close to racial stereotypes of worth, based on color, gender, or physical perfection.

I hope that Ben will eventually come to understand this. Should Ben be able to be Thing or man again at will?

Lori Eaton  
Alexandria, Va. 22302

Actually, Lori, if Ben really believes that his humanity has been destroyed, who's to say it hasn't been? After all, his ego depends very much on his conception of himself. But, your version of events certainly makes a bleak situation look better. Who knows, maybe the Thing's dilemma is not hopeless?

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH?

What made you decide to go into comics?

Mike Carlin, writer: "My growling stomach."

Ron Wilson, penciler: "I like to draw."

Kim DeMaider, inker: "I took the advice of a college economics teacher."

John Morelli, letterer: "I took a vow of poverty."

Bob Sharen, colorist: "I needed the work."

Howard Mackie, assistant editor: "I followed the advice of my good friend Mike Carlin."

Mark Gruenwald, editor: "I was caught writing in art class and caught drawing in composition class, so I decided to go into a profession where I could do both."

Jim Shooter, editor in chief: "Poverty."

ITEM: Paul Neary is currently hard at work on a SHIELD limited series. Bob Harras is writing the series and promises that Nick Fury will be put in situations that are even more hair raising than the exploits of Jim Shooter and Al Milgram while working with each other on SECRET WAR II.

NEXT ISSUE: CAPTAIN AMERICA'S own Paul Neary acts as special guest penciler in an exciting story featuring the return of the Puppet Master and the Sphinx.

MARK GRUENWALD: editor — HOWARD MACKIE: ASSISTANT EDITOR



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# BULLPEN BULLETINS

Heh! Heh! Heh! I'll bet you expected to find Jim Shooter here at his usual spot on the *Bullpen Bulletins* page. Well, you're out of luck! Big Jim couldn't make it this month. He's out of the office. In fact, he isn't even in the country anymore. Consider him history!

The big guy (known as the *Polish Prince* by his close friends) was last seen packing his bags, and heading for the airport. His first stop is Germany, where he'll be attending the world-famous *Frankfurt Book Fair*, and spreading the wondrous word of merry *Marvel* to some of the most prestigious book and magazine publishers in the entire known universe. From there, Jim will be jetting to merry ol' England where he'll be stopping by to visit our British counterparts at *Marvel U.K.* (He'll also be spending a few days consulting with the producer of the upcoming *Captain America* motion picture—but, I think that's supposed to be a secret so I'd better not mention it.) After that, our globe-trotting editor in chief heads to Paris, France where he'll be delivering a few lectures on the art, craft and editorial vision that goes into making every one of our mighty *Marvel* masterpieces. (By the way, Jim confided in me that he's also going to try to sneak in a day or two of sightseeing during this month-long European sojourn.

After all, the guy deserves a rest after having just completed the scripting chores on the best-selling comic book limited series of all time ... **SECRET WARS III!**

And, now, comes the most exciting news of this column ... while the Prince is gone, I am in charge of *Marvel Comics*. (Talk about a dream come true!) ME!! Ye ever-faithful executive editor Tom DeFalco!! (Cue the canned applause!)

I control the CAPITAL LETTERS! The bold words! The italics! (Ah, total power is so intoxicating!)

But, after my many years of association with a certain wondrous wall-crawler, I've learned one important truth ... with great power, there must come great responsibility.

Or, I guess one could always opt for chaos ...

MEMO: To All Editors  
SUBJECT: The color yellow

From henceforth, the color yellow is banned from all of our books. It makes our heroes look too cowardly!!

With respect from the top,  
Tom D.

MEMO: To All Editors  
SUBJECT: Letter columns

James Shooter (the guy who used to be in charge) often said that our letter columns were important because they gave us a chance to learn what the readers really thought of our comics. Effective immediately, letter columns will now be placed at the start of each book, and run ten pages in length. Story pages will decrease accordingly.

It's great at the top!  
Tom D.

MEMO: To All Editors  
SUBJECT: Covers

It's time for *Marvel* to blaze new trails in regards to comic book covers. From now on, our covers will be printed *INSIDE THE BOOKS!* Make the readers wait for them!!

Dr. Doom was right!!  
Tom D.

Hey, this is fun! I can't wait until Big Jim returns to see the changes I've made. I'm sure he'll be pleased ...

## CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THING #33**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #228**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #37**—It's the New Mutants vs. the Beyonder to the death in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #12**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #8**
- ☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #5**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #33**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #274**—The Puma lurks within this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #32**—Welcome the new Vindicator!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #315**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #20**—Guest-starring the New Mutants!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #18**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #34**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #42**—The end of an era!
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- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4**—Featuring everyone from Doctor Strange to Geel!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #317**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #265**—Don't you know we're on the "Eve of Destruction" in this *Secret Wars* cross-over?
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #180**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #185**
- ☐ **X-MEN #203**—It's a battle to the death with the Beyonder in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #122**
- ☐ **SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #4**

- ☐ **G.I. JOE #45**
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #6**—Betrayal!
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- ☐ **IRON MAN #204**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #288**—It's real! Doctor Doom appears in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #112**—The Black Cat is back!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #104**
- ☐ **THOR #365**
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #2**—The Beast is kidnapped!
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- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #121**
- ☐ **SAVAGE TALES #3**

### EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **SWORDS OF THE SWASH-BUCKLERS #5**—Welcome aboard new regular penciler GEOFF ISHERWOOD!
- ☐ **MOONSHADOW #6**—Eye-popping artwork supplied this issue by *Epic* illustrator KENT WILLIAMS!

- ☐ **STARSTRUCK (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **THE ONE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #13**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #8**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS II (Limited Series) #2**—Found: a gateway to another dimension!
- ☐ **COYOTE #16**—The Djinn and Scorpio Rose join Coyote in his last adventure!
- ☐ **TIMESPIRITS #8**—Could this be ... the end?
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #34**—The final issue, featuring TERRY AUSTIN, JOHN BYRNE, ARCHIE GOODWIN, ALAN MOORE, SANDY PLUNKETT, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, ART SUYDAM, AL WILLIAMSON, BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH and BERNI WRIGHTSON, among others!

### STAR COMICS

- ☐ **PLANET TERRY #12**—A happy surprise for Vermin the Vile!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #6**
- ☐ **WALLY THE WIZARD #12**
- ☐ **EWOKS #6**—Wicket finds himself in a cosmic battle against the Ice Demon!
- ☐ **ROYAL ROY #6**—What is the secret power of Cashelot?
- ☐ **MUPPET BABIES #6**—Scooter rules the world!
- ☐ **GETALONG GANG #6**—Watch out! There's a stranger in Green Meadow!
- ☐ **CARE BEARS #3**—Featuring "Blue Who!"

### GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **GN #20: GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE**—Why is New York called "Fun City?" Because you can wander through Chinatown, eat a bagel, and meet vampires! Get in on the fun with J.M. DeMATTEIS (writer) and MARK BADGER (artist)!



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